

From: Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard (MDE)
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 3:29 PM
To: MDE-SchoolNutrition
Subject: Weekly News from MDE 070313

To all of you that attended our conference last week, thank you for attending, and I hope it was beneficial for you. A lot of topics came up that are supposed to be in this week's news so I will do my best at providing as many answers as I can. You might want to get a cup of coffee as this may be a long email. Here we go:

- 1) Competitive Food Rule – As was mentioned at the conference, the interim competitive food rule was released last week. While the rule will be in place, USDA still wants comments and will receive them for 120 days. While I have not completed my study of the rule, it seems little has changed from the proposed rule. There are still sodium, fat, and calorie restrictions for a la carte items sold, both entrees, side items, and snacks. USDA has already announced webinars for State Agencies to go over the new rule. After these webinars, I will be in a better position to help you with specific parts of the rule that may have the greatest impact on your program. In the meantime, this link will take you to a variety of links that all pertain to the new interim rule. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/allfoods.htm>. From that link you can get to the USDA press release, graphics, summary of all the comments, Q & As, and a variety of other resources. And here is a link to a summary page issued from FRAC: http://frac.org/pdf/frac_competitive_foods_rule_fact_sheet.pdf. Also, attached is a summary from the School Nutrition Association (SNA). There will be more coming as we learn more over the next few weeks.
- 2) Resource Management – In the new Administrative Review (the old CRE), part of the review will include reviewing the financial aspects of your nonprofit school food service account. At the conference, it was requested we make available the PowerPoint that was used to present the information. It is attached. Reading the PowerPoint will give you an overview but not enough information for you to feel comfortable enough about using the new system. We already have several training sessions booked for the fall to help food service directors get up to speed on the new review process. Details will follow shortly.
- 3) Indirect Costs – At the conference, there was quite a bit of discussion on Indirect/Direct costs. Here is a link to a USDA policy memo that also includes over 100 pages of guidance on this topic. Conference attendees requested this information so here is the link: http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/Policy-Memos/2011/SP41-2011_os.pdf.
- 4) Menu Planning Resources – The attendees also wanted to know of available menu planning resources. Here are some links:
 - a. <http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/Resources/foodbuyingguide.html>

- b. <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/>
 - c. <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/menu-planning-0>
- 5) Great Garden Detective - Please see the attached email regarding the availability of print copies of the Great Garden Detective, Team Nutrition's garden-based nutrition education curriculum for 3rd and 4th graders. I will send a similar notice when the curriculum for 5th and 6th graders is available in print.
 - 6) USDA for All Seasons – Please see the attached email regarding the new program made available through USDA which highlights various activities (many of them summer based) people of all ages can do to stay healthy year round.
 - 7) USDA Best Practices Website – The link for this resource was requested last week as well. Here is the link: <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/best-practices>. It will take you to various lists that you can choose from to reflect what you would like more information on.
 - 8) 6 Cent Certification – Just to clarify, MDE has 60 days from the receipt of a complete application to approve and certify it. Notice it is from the receipt of a complete application. This helps both you and us make sure you get approved for the full amount of time you are requesting. If we simply went by the original submission date, by the time you get the chance to make the corrections and we have time to review it again, it could already be at 60 days. Having said that, if you have an application going back many months, please do 2 things. First, check to make sure your application status does not say "in process of creation." If it does, it means your application was never correctly submitted. If it has been an extended amount of time, email us and state your application's current status, your application date and the date of the last status change. That will help us evaluate potential time conflicts. We realize the 6 Cent process has been difficult and we appreciate your time, effort and patience.
 - 9) \$5,000 Equipment – At the conference, we had two speakers from our fiscal unit. One topic that came up which caused some significant discussion is the fact that if you are going to purchase equipment (oven, stove, refrigerator, dishmachine, etc.) with a cost of over \$5,000, you need to receive MDE approval. While we are still working through the exact procedure on how we will begin to enforce this part of federal law, please be aware of this and notify us of the potential purchase.
 - 10) \$25,000 Contract – The other fiscal issue that caused much discussion is the fact that if any of these major contracts relate to a federal grant, the MDE approved unrestricted indirect rate should be charged only on the first \$25,000 of the contract, costs in excess of the \$25,000 are to be excluded. See more details regarding this rule at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/25Krule_331378_7.pdf. So, for

example, if you are contracting out your lunch room monitors and the total service costs \$100,000 to do so, the SFA can only apply the MDE approved unrestricted indirect rate to the first \$25,000 of that major contract (the \$75,000 is excluded) when calculating the recovery of the indirect costs from the school meals program.

- 11) Other "stuff" – There were several other topics that attendees at the conference had wanted. I am still working on pulling together that information in order to send it out. Next week, I hope to have nearly all of the requested information out to you all.

Like I mentioned, I will get more information out that was requested next week. In the meantime, have a wonderful holiday weekend.

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"The MDE School Nutrition Programs team is committed to the success of child nutrition programs through training, support, and leadership by fostering partnerships to ensure the nutritional well-being of all students in Michigan."